SUBJECTS.

the class of retired officials, who had been Judges and Magistrates while in office and who are permanent residents of the towns. They would be fully conversant with the nature and habits of the people around them, and by their social position, would be able to exercise a wholesome influence on occasions of public unrest and unseemly riots of the kind that occurred recently. He also added that the measure suggested was likely to be a better preventive than the quartering of punitive police, the burden of which would fall mostly on inoffensive and unoffending people.

Dewans' reply.—The suggestion will be considered.

29. *Police reform.*

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the question of Police reform had been brought up at the Assembly in all its previous sittings, and in view of the importance of the subject, Government had recently done something in that direction by increasing the salaries of policemen. Increase of salary would no doubt attract a better class of men to the department and thereby give a high tone to it. But, he thought, there were other important directions in which reform was needed. The investigating officers, *viz.*, the Station House Officers, should belong to a better class of men than the one to which they now belonged, and they should at least be men who have passed the Matriculation Examination of some University. A system of Panchayets might also be instituted and the Station House Officers required to make the investigation in consultation with the Panchayets. The records of enquiry, such as mahazars, etc., should be attested by two members of the Panchayet. The detective side of the Police had to be developed and the officers given some sort of training in detection. It would also be desirable to enforce a system of night patrol.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) said that, though the people were thankful to Government for the small beginnings recently made for reforming the Police department, there was still much scope for further improvement. It was a regrettable circumstance that, instead of being the protectors of person and property, the policemen very often themselves assumed the position of aggressors. The Member then gave particulars of some cases of the kind which occurred in the Kottarakara taluk to support his statement and said that it was the special request of the people of the taluk that the high-handed action of the local police should be brought to the notice of Government. There was at present no security of person or property in the taluk and the people were spend-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

ing restless nights. The chief causes which led to the state of things described by him were the incompetency, disunion and want of proper supervision on the part of the higher officers of the department and the low pay of the subordinates. With a view to improve the department, he suggested that reforms might be made on lines such as the following, *viz.*, (1) that only Sub-Inspectors should be given charge of police stations; (2) that Prosecuting Inspectors should be appointed; (3) that prompt investigation of cases should be enforced; (4) that some educational qualification should be prescribed for Police officers and that men of good breeding should alone be entertained in the department; (5) that a Police Training School should be opened; and (6) that District Magistrates should be asked to exercise a strict supervision over the work of the Police.

Mr. Ittoop Ethapanose (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) represented that the Police obtained bribes for releasing on bail the accused arrested under criminal warrants, arrested and tortured innocent people and wrongfully included rich people as accused with a view to extort some money from them. Only two courses were open to the people, *viz.*, to represent matters to the Superintendent of Police or to prefer complaints against the Police, but both these resources practically proved futile in the end. He therefore requested that Government might take a personal interest in these matters and effect the necessary reforms to save the poor and innocent people from such acts of violence at the hands of the Police. He also suggested that a provision might be made for the depositions of two of the respectable and leading citizens of the locality being recorded in all police cases occurring in rural parts.

Mr. Koonju Khadir Pillai (Member, Alangad Taluk) said that the many faults which were being heaped upon the Police proceeded from irresponsible quarters and were made from more or less interested motives. Though every individual in a country, rich or poor, required the assistance of the police, it was a pity that the help rendered by the latter became thankless in the end. A few among the lower ranks of the police might no doubt be guilty of the charges that were levelled against them year after year, but it was not right to condemn the department as a whole for the faults of a few. The condition of the Travancore Police compared favourably with that of other countries, and it might be said that, ever since the reorganisation which took place in 1057, the department was being maintained in good order and in a high state of efficiency

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

and discipline under its present head. The Member, however, said that there was yet much room for a further development of the department and that the suggestion that he had to make was that lines should be provided for the executive police. The advantages resulting from the measure, if adopted, were manifold. The whole body of men allotted to a station would be concentrated and they would be available for all emergent calls, better facilities would be afforded for the supervising authorities to check the movements of the police even when they were off-duty, habits of sobriety and temperance, stricter moral discipline, a healthy *esprit-de-corps* and a higher sense of responsibility and duty would be promoted, the confidence of the public in the police would be fostered and the public safety would be ensured. The Member said that, on financial considerations, he would suggest that, for the present, the measure might be tentatively tried in important towns in the State and in taluks bordering on the British territories and Cochin.

Dewan's reply.—The views and suggestions of the several Members are noted. The attention of the District Magistrate of Quilon will be drawn to the state of affairs alleged to exist in the Kottarakara taluk.

III. Forests.

30. Reservation of grazing and manure grounds.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) represented that the ryots were at present labouring under several difficulties in the matter of cultivation. Reserved forests extended up to human habitations, and there were in consequence no areas available for the people either for the purpose of grazing their cattle on or for removing manure leaves from for agricultural purposes. In the absence of such grazing grounds, it was very difficult to maintain their cattle, and if prompt steps were not taken by Government, cultivation was bound to go down in course of time. A further obstacle was recently thrown in the way of the ryots by the levy of a fee on foreign cattle entering the reserves for grazing. The foreign cattle were resorting to the State forests, not because of the absence of facilities for grazing in the adjoining British villages, but because they were being brought in by the Travancore ryots for their agricultural operations, as there were not enough cattle in the State itself for the purpose. A fee had also to be paid on fuel removed from the forests for agricultural purposes. With a view to remove the above difficulties, the Member suggested that it was desirable to exclude from

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